BENGALURU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

# Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 16 | Humidity 59% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 61,337 | Nifty 18,269 | Gold 54,280 | Silver 72,500 | Dollar 82.87 | Euro 88.14 | GBP 100.77

## WOKE INFRA

Activists call for gender-neutral, inclusive toilets that trans people can use too

PAGE 3

## CIVIC SENSE

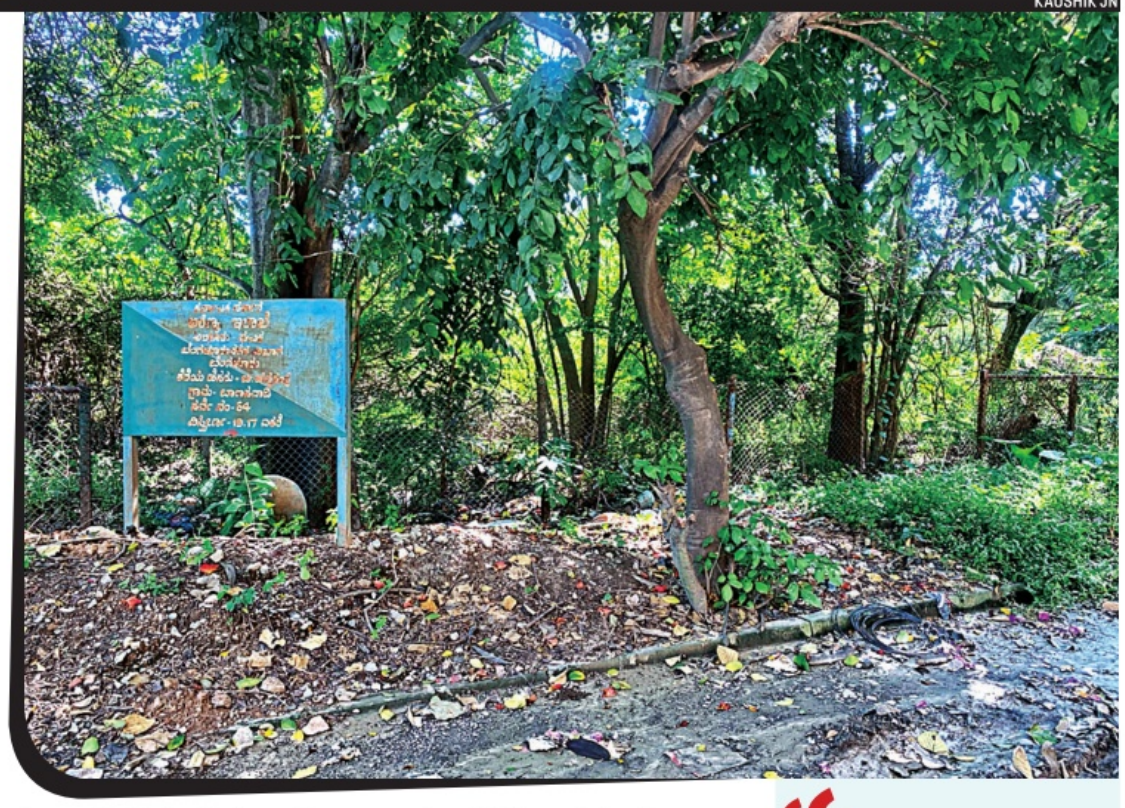
'Regularise pourakarmikas' jobs'; memorandum submitted to CM

PAGE 4

# 19-acre untended green patch, home to dying lake trashed with debris, needs urgent attention from forest dept

# URBAN JUNGLE

KAUSHIK JN



## Residents request walking path, maintenance, security

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been trying to develop and maintain urban forests to ensure green spaces in the city. Environmentalists spend their time planting saplings at suitable vacant places.

However, a mini forest spread over 19 acres and 17 guntas in Kasturinagar has become an eyesore for the residents of the area. The forest is situated behind New Horizon College and Presidency School.

The resident citizens are not against the forest. They have been demanding the forest department to focus on the maintenance of the forest to prevent it from becoming a destination for anti-social elements.

They said there exists a lake by the name, Channasandra Lake, within the forest — the waterbody has gradually depleted over time and has became a spot for illegal debris dumping.

"The forest department is not taking measures to develop the area. We want the forest department to maintain it properly. The area is home to many snakes. The department must construct a walking path along the forest compound for the benefit of residents and post security guards in the area to keep vigil and check anti-social elements," said Jayasimha CS, a resident.

Sridhar GK, another resident, said the BBMP has to ensure functioning streetlights on the road adjacent to the forest. "The road along the forest has become a destination for lazy people to create nuisance. They are using the road as an open urinal. It will be good if the authorities create a walking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> "It is the only lung space in Kasturinagar. It's very important to preserve and use it for a better purpose
> — Venugopal Rai, Kasturinagar Welfare Association

## 50 reasons not to fell trees

### Fifty objections were filed within a short span of 10 days against tree felling

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

From citing scientific research about the ineffectiveness of road widening projects on traffic congestion to quoting the harmful impact of cutting trees on biodiversity, and from highlighting the shrinking green cover of the city to suggesting alternatives for improving traffic snarls, citizens alluded to many reasons in objections filed against removing 58 trees standing between Cauvery Theatre Junction and Mekhri Circle for an upcoming road widening project proposed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Nevertheless, the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) approved the removal of 54 trees on the stretch, giving go-ahead to the project in principle. The TEC gave the order in response to a letter by the road infrastructure development department of BBMP seeking permission for clearance of 58 trees between Cauvery Theatre Junction and Mekhri Circle.

The Palike had put up a public notice on April 18, 2022, inviting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## Hunt for Karnataka's talent

VK Navatare, a one-of-a-kind beauty pageant and talent hunt for college students is back, and if you're one of those who wants to shine on the ramp, this is your moment! In fact, VK Navatare is the one and only beauty pageant and talent hunt conducted for college students by VK (Bangalore Mirror's sister concern and number one newspaper in Karnataka). The fifth edition of VK Navatare has begun and if you are yet to enrol, here's your chance right now. VK Navatare is an excellent platform for all the college girls aiming for a career in TV, films and entertainment in general. The participants and winners of the previous editions have made it big in their respective. VK Navatare as it is one of the most trustworthy beauty pageants and talent hunt and one of its kind conducted by a newspaper in Karnataka. Currently, auditions are being held at Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Davanagere and Kalaburagi. The entry is completely free.

After auditions at regional levels, the finale will be held at Bengaluru. So, don't miss this golden opportunity and enrol now.

The participants of VK Navatare-5 may bag a chance to act in Star Suvarna Channel
*(Conditions Apply)

"VK Navatare is a prestigious event and I waited for two years to prepare and participate. It has given me a great platform. It has boosted my morale and confidence and opened up a number of career opportunities"
– Manushree, VK Navatare 2021 winner

### HOW TO ENROLL

Students studying in Karnataka's colleges in the age group of 18 to 23 are eligible. The interested students can send their personal biodata along with photos (both closeup and a full-size photo) along with a self-introductory video. The profiles should include necessary details: name, address, college name, class details, and parents' names along with a copy of the college identity card. The details can be sent on **WhatsApp 8880852240.** The last date for entry is **December 20, 2022.**

# 'Nearly 50% deliveries in B'luru are C-Sections'

## ... says study conducted by Health Department; committee being set up to monitor and reduce C-Sections

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

In a recent state-wide study on Caesarean deliveries, it was found that 48.34 per cent of the babies born in the city were C-Section deliveries.

As per the study conducted by the Health Department between April to August this year, it was found that government hospitals have done more Caesarean deliveries (8,396) than private hospitals (7,007). Experts say that this is a worrying factor as the percentage of Caesarean deliveries is higher than the World Health Organisation benchmark. WHO found that as countries increase their caesarean section rates up to 10 per cent, maternal and neonatal mortality decrease. However, caesarean section rates higher than 10 per cent are not associated with reductions in maternal and newborn mortality rates.

The study also said that C-section deliveries are more in rural areas than the urban pockets. The maximum number of C-Section deliveries were reported from Tumakuru district (62.71 per cent) while the lowest was in Yadgir district (8.5 per cent).

Experts say pregnancy is a physiological state and every pregnant woman should keep herself active and lead a normal life. Normal deliveries are usually advised by doctors which involve no scar, reduced risk of asthma and also help in the better neurological development of the baby.

A gynecologist said, "The scope of prenatal education has expanded over the years and now includes preparation for pregnancy, labour, and birth, care of the new-born, and adjustment to family life. Prenatal education and exercise classes help with this to some extent of changing lifestyles and alleviation of anxiety."

The State Health Department officials said that instructions have been issued to district heads to take measures to reduce Caesarean deliveries.

According to a senior medical consultant, C-section deliveries are increasing across the country. "Often, if there are teaching hospitals, there might be an increase in the rates because many doctors want to train their students to perform C-sections," she said.

### Cost factor

C-section deliveries are also more expensive than the normal deliveries. "There are certain doctors who insist on trying every best effort for a normal delivery and take up C-section only in extreme cases. However, when the conditions indicate criticality, then the doctors don't want to take chances and go for C-section," said a health expert.

Other health experts said that some of the women didn't want to undergo the labour pain and hence go for C-section. However, there are others who resist C-section as many women complain of lifelong back pain after undergoing C-section.

Doctors always stress on a natural birth instead of a surgical procedure as it is healthier for the mother and baby

"The committee will take measures to reduce C-section deliveries and we need to reduce it to less than 40 per cent
– Dr K Sudhakar, Health Minister

### Committee set up

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "We have observed that C-section deliveries are increasing. In some of the hospitals, it is as high as 40 to 65 per cent. We are setting up a committee. In district hospitals, district surgeons, anaesthetists and others will be part of the committee.

The committee will take measures to reduce C-section deliveries and we need to reduce it to less than 40 per cent. The C-section deliveries may increase in tertiary hospitals as referrals are at the last."

## 1 THING TO DO

### 01 To Linkin Park

Keeping up with its tradition of rocking live performances every week, Hard Rock Cafe is hosting a live performance of the band all the way from Mumbai Anthracite playing a tribute to none other than Linkin Park. The Mumbai-based metal band will take the stage and wine down to the tunes of Linkin Park and walk you down memory lane. Keep your spirits high and catch them perform live with the same old pumped-up energy. **Where: Hard Rock Cafe St Marks Road**
**When: December 17, 9 pm onwards**
**Tickets: bookmyshow/ insider.in**

# At KIA, biz is booming like good ol' times

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is experiencing its biggest footfall ever since the pandemic began in 2020, with the number of passengers at the airport crossing the one lakh mark recently.

"On average, we are getting over one lakh passengers every day. This is a much bigger number compared to the passenger traffic during the last festival season, which was Deepawali. Traffic revival has continued across both the domestic and international sectors due to the upcoming holiday and festive season. We are also expecting a higher passenger volume over the coming weeks, especially the last week of the year," said a BIAL spokesperson. On October 21, which marked the beginning of the festive season with Deepawali weekend, 94,330 passengers flew to and from the airport.

However, despite the huge surge in footfalls, authorities say the queues at security counters at the airport are being managed without any trouble.

Many initiatives have been taken up to manage the surge in passenger volume. Officials say they are encouraging the passengers to use the enhanced BLR Airport app to get real-time information on tracking flight status; queue time estimates for various passenger touchpoints like entry gates, check-in counters, and security checks.

"In order to accommodate both domestic and foreign traffic during peak hours, we have transformed two international automated tray retrieval system lanes into swing lanes," said a BIAL official.

All checkpoints, according to the officials, have personnel deployed to ensure crowd rerouting and distribution between zones. BIAL officials also informed that additional staff are also being deployed at the security hold area to remind passengers to remove restricted items from their luggage.

"We have also ensured that sufficient support and designated lanes are available for the elderly and passengers with infants," said the spokesperson.

Notably, there were some media reports about BIAL officials blaming the CISF and immigration authority for the congestion at the airport. According to a statement issued by BIAL, these news reports are unsubstantiated.

"Our staff have been working hard round the clock to make the journey of passengers as seamless and easy as possible," read the statement from BIAL.

# Public loo use is trauma for trans people

## Activists call for gender-neutral, inclusive toilets that they too can use without fear

File photo of a protest by members of the transgender community held recently in the city

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

> **We want to be able to use washrooms just like other people. We want to be able to use the washrooms proudly without having to suppress our voices**
>
> –Chandhani, writer and activist

Transgender activists in the city say there is a need to have gender-neutral public toilets, which would go a long way in helping those from the LGBTQ community overcome gender-based stigmas.

Uma, the founder of Jeeva, an organisation that has been working for the issues of sexual minorities for 23 years now, says there is a lot of confusion for transgenders to use public toilets. "We do not need separate toilets, but we do need gender-neutral toilets. It is very important because transgenders, especially females to males, cannot use public toilets as they are now. Moreover, the people who maintain the public toilets are also not aware of the needs of the community and they end up creating a lot of drama. A lot of the people belonging to the transgender community are also scared to use the toilets because they do not want to reveal their gender identity. Then there is also the fear that they might get humiliated. They also have the feeling that their dignity might be affected."

Chandhani, a writer and activist, as well as the founder member, secretary, and director of Payana, said, all they want is social inclusivity. "We want to be able to use the washrooms just like other people. But while using public washrooms, that is not always the case. There have been so many times that when people from our community were using the washroom, they got calls and talked on the phone, so after listening to our voices, the other ladies who were also using the washrooms ran out of it scared. We do not want that; we want to be able to use the washrooms proudly without suppressing our voices."

According to them, female to male transgenders cannot use the public men's washroom because some of them have not undergone the sex change surgery and it gets very difficult for them to use the washroom. "Moreover, there is also the issue of security and the chances of getting a severe infection in our private parts. So, it would be good to have a gender-neutral toilet that all trans people can use."

However, some activists feel that having separate washrooms will further exclude them from the society.

Ruma Harish is a transgender activist who identifies as a transman and follows the pronouns He/Him. "There is no need for separate toilets because such kinds of toilets further exclude us. All we want is there should be physically comfortable toilets which will help in making them more comfortable. I prefer that there should be Indian Style toilets as then those can be used by everyone. It is not like we spread any kind of disease, so, there is no need for any separate toilets for us," he said.

# HC stays case against film producer

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the proceedings against producer-distributor Prashanth Sambargi in a complaint lodged by actress Sruthi Hariharan. The case is an offshoot of the 'Me Too' allegations made by the actress against actor Arjun Sarja.

Sruthi Hariharan had accused Arjun Sarja of sexual misconduct during the shooting of the film Vismaya. On October 25, 2018, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) had called both for mediation under the aegis of veteran actor Ambareesh.

During the meeting, Sarja's aide Sambargi was also present and Sruthi Hariharan accused him of making statements to the media against her, intruding her privacy and indulging in character assassination. Sambargi had alleged that the 'Me Too' campaign against Arjun Sarja was funded by money from New York.

The actress had complained against Sambargi the same day in the High Grounds Police Station and the case is pending before the VIII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Bengaluru. Sambargi filed a petition before the HC challenging this case.

Sambargi was charged under Section 506 (criminal intimidation) and Section 509 (hurt the modesty of woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

After hearing the petition, Justice K Natarajan stayed further proceedings in the case against Sambargi.

–PTI

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

## EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at c-rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

# Art for part's sake

One of the most absurd things to have transpired of late is propaganda masquerading as art. So-called 'artworks' are now vying for legitimacy at art fairs, film festivals and literary forums.

It is quite the dilemma to glean the rationale here, as film, theatre, literature and fine art are founded on liberal values that emerged out of people's movements seeking social injustice.

For aeons, art has been pursuits or certain collective mind spaces that bring like-minded individuals and communities together where liberal values are upheld through creative ingenuity up against social oppression and political fiefdoms while mocking hypocrisy, bigotry and other social vices.

That said, now the bigot and hypocrite have arrived and walked right in dressed up as liberals to push propaganda at film festivals; that they are seeking acceptance and legitimacy at these fairs are bewildering. Nevertheless, ideological appropriation is vogue now the world over, especially values that the political left has been emotive for. Just look at the ethnic diversity of the United Kingdom's current Tory regime vis-à-vis their policies bordering on the barbaric, against the migrants, urban poor and a woke societal transition, at the behest of corporate behemoths.

The creative famine is a body blow, especially now; for India has celebrated liberal arts for so long. The story of a people has been etched in theatre, film, fine art and literature resonating with generations that have come of age across the subcontinent. So, it's not just the Gujarat assembly poll outcome that should send sociologists/psephologists into deep thought but what the ever expanding void of creative spaces and expression in India means.

The bouquet of diverse artistry from this multilingual/multicultural landscape has essentially taken a break and resigned to contemporary history amid religious intolerance that manufactures malignant campaigns; the furore against the new Shahrukh Khan-Deepika Padukone starrer for example.

The diversity of Indian art (music, dance, theatre or film), glimpses of which, was otherwise occasionally showcased on state broadcast as part of national integration drives a decade or so ago now abruptly appears to be something of the past, frozen in time. Where are our artists and artisans — poets, musicians, dancers, painters, writers, playwrights, actors, folk artists, folklorists and filmmakers who championed social justice once? Abandoned on the wayside, are they?

What has the social media tsunami done to salvage art in this cultural ruination? What does this sudden cessation of creative expression hold for a unique society such as ours? In the age of exploding

social media timelines where story after story of self appreciation seeks acknowledgement, why has the art world gone silent?

The gradual decline of arts and letters in the past decade or so is no doubt the reflection of the scarred social fabric unable to pull together and raise grievances through creative pursuit. This is intruiging for a geography such as India: even during times of slavery in the United States, the birthing of a new aesthetic occurred, considered the pinnacle of musical expression that came out of one man oppressing another — the blues.

In a documentary about Chester Arthur Burnett popularly known as Howlin' Wolf, I chanced upon someone suggesting the birth of blues as a way of song getting back at atrocities perpetrated by the white man on the black man who's been worked mercilessly, ill treated, brutalised beyond recognition and denied every human right.

It is a case study for social scientists when similar instances are making news every other day here and why such a vibrant creative space is not standing up for brethren. The societal projectile of a nation is naturally reflected in its art history. In the 75 years after Independence, India has showcased such diversity in arts and letters that the current aesthetic pales and shrinks in comparison — films of Govind Nihalani come to mind: where are films like 'Aakrosh'?.

Now is when the new aesthetic shall firmly and unabashedly critique gross deviations from social progress. On the contrary, the art fraternity is silent; or are they being silenced?

When mediocrity worms its way in, art is hollowed out from within as the players opt for art for part's sake — just as the creative bankruptcy of the film industry was exposed at the International Film Festival of India when the Israeli jury member flagged what he thought was propaganda masquerading as a film worthy of a festival; one must also introspect meantime, how shameful is blatant intimidation of artists of the religious minority. Pray help the society understand how this is acceptable.

For instance, the musical revolution of the 80s that pushed boundaries (refer, 'Video Killed the Radio Star') is now seemingly floundering and losing chic, after unimaginable leaps in tech, something which is terribly missed even as entire geographies like India are deprived of the joy of creative expression for absolutist tendencies.

# Remember job promise made to civic workers?

## Memorandum demanding abolition of contract system submitted to Chief Minister

Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pourakarmikas protest in the city in this file photo of July 2022

The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) delegation of pourakarmika leaders, on Thursday, met chief minister Basavaraj Bommai and submitted a memorandum demanding the abolition of the contract system immediately.

The union has been pushing the state government for immediate regularisation of jobs of all pourakarmikas including sweepers, drivers, cleaners, loaders, and underground drainage (UGD) workers, and the abolition of contract labour.

In July, after the civic workers launched an indefinite strike demanding permanent jobs, the state government gave assurance to the workers that their jobs would be regularised. However, permanent status was granted to 11,000 civic workers only while the rest are still under direct payment or contract.

Clifton D' Rozario, state president, AICCTU, told Bangalore Mirror, "They promised jobs to all the pourakarmikas but then made the declaration for just 11,000 workers, that too just for the sweepers. What about the drivers, cleaners, loaders, etc? For them, nothing has been done so far. Our two demands are very simple -- one is that all the sweepers should be regularised in one go. Secondly, the entire contract system should be abolished and the drivers, cleaners, loaders, and UGD workers working under contract system should be brought under a direct payment system with an understanding that they will also be regularised in the coming days."

Rozario said that the chief minister has accepted the memorandum and has said that they would be looking into the matter soon.

For months, the civic workers have been demanding the regularisation of jobs on a permanent basis and also a hike in salary. However, more than five months after the government gave an assurance for the same, nothing has been done for the pourakarmikas.

Maitreyi Krishnan, a State committee member of AICCTU, said "Unfortunately, the government has not kept to its own word and that is the issue that we highlighted yesterday in front of the chief minister. There are 35,000 workers across the state and just in Bengaluru, there are close to 18,000. We are demanding that this contract system is completely removed.

> **"They promised jobs to all pourakarmikas but declared it for 11,000 workers. What about the others?**
>
> –Clifton D'Roazario, AICCTU

Even the drivers, loaders, helpers, and others have to be made permanent in the future but nothing has been done on that front so far."

BBMP Joint commissioner, Solid waste management, Parashuram Shinnalkar had earlier told BM that in BBMP limits, around 1,667 workers have been made permanent so far while close to 15,000 are still on the Direct Payment System basis. A few of the civic workers are still employed on a contract basis.

# 4-lane flyover coming soon

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After much delay, the BBMP will start constructing the four-lane flyover along Sankey Tank Main Road. They will also be widening Sankey Road from Bhashyam Circle to Malleshwaram 18th Cross. The Palike floated a tender for the construction of the project on Thursday.

The civic body's Rs 60-crore solution is expected to sort out the traffic mess in the area.

The new flyover will be 560-m-long and 17-m-wide. The BBMP will also construct two-lane roads below the bridge extending for 590 m and slip roads that are 5.5 m wide. The Palike has called tenders amounting to Rs 49.59 crore. The remaining Rs 10.31 crore has been attributed to additional costs like GST and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The agency also decided to design the flyover with an environment-friendly theme.

The Bhashyam Circle junction is formed at the intersection of Guttahalli Main Road (from Bellary road) and Yeshwanthpur (towards Malleshwaram 18th cross), and Rajmahal Vilas Extension from Sadashivanagar and 2nd main road

> **BBMP's ₹60-crore project aimed to be solution to traffic problems of Sankey Tank Main Road**

of Vyalikaval. An estimated 9,000-10,000 vehicles pass through the circle each day.

BBMP Engineer-In-Chief, BS Prahalad told Bangalore Mirror, "The existing road will cater to traffic coming from the Yeshwanthpura side and another road will be constructed on the downstream bund of Sankey Lake. There will also be a signal-free grade separator at Bhashyam Circle. We have proposed a four-lane flyover and two-lane roads below the bridge. The flyover's lanes will be 7.5 m wide."

The agency noted that for the project, a few trees will have to be axed or translocated. This is being opposed by green activists. On the number of trees, BBMP Deputy Conservator of Forest, Forest Wing, Sareena Sikkaligar, said, "We haven't received any applications for the project yet."

Regarding the project abutting the lake bund, the BBMP is yet to seek the KTCDA's approval. "The tender committee has cleared the project and we will call the tenders separately. After that, we will make sure the agency handling the project will acquire all permissions before starting the project," added Prahalad. For the project, BBMP will have to acquire some land too.

# Revenue officers accused of faking document entries

## Officers said to have conspired with individuals to help them get more land by manipulating records

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Two revenue officers working at Bengaluru East Tahsildar Office have been accused of colluding with several individuals to help them to grab one acre of government land. The complaint was lodged with Karnataka Lokayukta on October 12.

The accused revenue officers include: S Ajit Kumar Rai, Bengaluru East Tahsildar, Nagaprashanth, Special Tahsildar, Nandan B S, Office Manager, Shashi Kumar and D G Mahonar, Bhoomi Kendra Operators, Parthasaraty, Revenue Inspector of Whitefield, and CL Shivakumar, Assistant Commissioner of Bangalore North Sub-Division.

The complainants, Regan Prabhu and Yesuraj, alleged that the revenue officers have helped Ravi Kumar and Narendra Reddy by manipulating entries and showing them to be 2 acre and 27 guntas as against the actual land of 1 acre and 27 guntas. Ravi Kumar and Narendra Reddy are the sons of Sathyanarayana Reddy who owned only 1 acre and 27 guntas of land.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Sathyanarayana Reddy purchased one acre of land (survey no. 20) from H M Narayana Reddy and N Venkatesh Reddy on December 26, 1979 for Rs 6,000. Later, Sathyanarayana Reddy purchased 27 guntas of land from H Venkatesh Reddy and his son V Aravind on August 21, 2003 for Rs 4,50,000.

So, the total land Sathyanarayana Reddy had purchased was of 1 acre and 27 guntas. However, the revenue officers have allegedly issued records to Ravi Kumar and Narendra Reddy for 1 acre and 13 guntas each which is one acre more than the land owned by them as per the revenue records.

The land encircled in the image is the disputed property

**The complainants alleged that the accused were aware of the actual property size, yet issued documents showing false numbers**

The complainants alleged that the revenue officers are aware of the actual size of the land Sathyanarayana Reddy owned but issued documents to his sons Ravi Kumar and Narendra Reddy for more land than the actual land.

"The entire 2 acre and 27 gunta of land actually belong to the government as per the revenue records. The said persons with the knowledge of the above revenue officers had encroached two to two-and-half acres of lake land. The Lokayukta must call for the records in respect of Survey No 20 of Chinnappanahalli village and Survey No 15 & 17 of Chinnappanahalli reserved for the lake," the complainants said.

The Revenue Department had issued an order on November 25 suspending Bengaluru East Tahsildar Ajith Kumar Rai for allegedly helping stormwater drain encroachers to obtain the stay order from a court by delaying action which allegedly halted the demolition drive. The suspension order stated that the official violated Rule 3 (i) (ii) (iii) of the Karnataka Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 2021 by acting in a manner unbecoming of a government employee.

Bengaluru East Special Tahsildar Nagaprashanth was not available for comment.

Yesuraj, one of the complainants, has lodged a complaint with the Regional Commissioner (Land Revenue) on November 28 seeking legal action against the land grabbers by fending the government land near Chinnappanahalli lake.

# Safety for women on NYE

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Prathap Reddy has asked pubs and restaurants to ensure safety is provided to women during the new year celebrations.

This year, New Year revelries are touted to be bigger in Bengaluru as there will be no covid restrictions for the first time in two years.

Reddy said, "We have taken all the security measures for December 31. We have discussed and briefed the owners of pubs and restaurants on all the security measures to be taken for December 31. We have asked them to install CCTVs. We have said that the hotels should do due diligence before hiring temporary staff."

# New ruling in PNBHFL case

Certain homebuyers had availed housing loans from PNBHFL for purchase of flats in Mantri-Webcity project. On account of the Mantri-Webcity Project construction being stalled for more than two years, the homebuyers had stopped paying EMIs.

The homebuyers then filed several writ petitions before the High Court seeking relief that PNB Housing Finance Limited be restrained.

The High Court on September 14 had issued a writ of Mandamus restraining PNBHFL from taking any coercive measures against home-buyers.

PNBHFL then set up an appeal before the High Court's Division Bench, seeking a stay on the order.

At the hearing on December 2, the Division Bench made a categorical note that there are certain arguable issues in the order dated September 14 that requires consideration and admitted the Writ appeal.

The Division Bench also granted a stay on the operation of the order dated September 14 till further orders.

# Centre for STEM learning

The new Loyola Technology Centre for Science, Technology, Education, and Math education was inaugurated by the Governor of Karnataka, Thawarchand Gehlot, on December 16 at St Joseph's Boys' High School, Museum Road.

The centre was created by a partnership between St Joseph's Boys' High School, Learn for Life Foundation, and Joy Thomas Foundation with additional support from the St Joseph's Old Boys' Association. The vision for the LTC is to engage students and nurture independent thinking, creativity and innovation. The LTC programs include the best STEM in-school programs, exploratory projects, and 'hands on' workshops with world-renowned industry experts during school club hours, after school hours, and on weekends. "Our mission is to nurture students in a dynamic environment through self-driven projects and interactions with mentors, giving them the opportunity to succeed, both in academics and beyond," said Asha Sundarajan, the LTC Founding Program Director and the Joy Thomas (SJBHS 1977) Foundation STEM lead.

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# Nelamangala gets infra push

## This place is buzzing place with real estate activity

BM Property
Every Saturday
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Mahesh Malagi
9886721857

The Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) revised interest in taking up work on the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) has given a big boost to the realty market in the area. Along with the satellite town ring road (STRR), realtors in Tumakuru Road and Nelamangala have been keeping an eye on the peripheral ring road and six-lane road developments. Both the projects have made Nelamangala a buzzing place for real estate activities.

The metro and local train are at a reachable distance too.

Most of the development work in Bengaluru has extended to the outskirts of the city. The presence of many domestic and international industries has created job opportunities for lakhs of people. The vehicle and population in the city have also increased, which is why people want to shift to the outskirts.

The first stage of the STRR connects to Dabaspet, a growing industrial hub in Tumakuru. Developmental activities are going on in full swing and future projects have increased demand here. This road connects Dabaspet in Tumakuru, Doddaballapur in Hindupur, Devanahalli in Hyderabad Road, and Hoskote in Kolar Road. In the second stage, it connects Doddaballapur to Hoskote Road. A property developer said, "For those who want to make good profits in real estate, Nelamangala is an ideal choice. Here there are many opportunities to buy plots."

Many development projects make this a hotspot for buyers.

### Promising outlook for real estate

Many realtors are optimistic about the real estate sectors' growth. Dhaval Ajmera, Director, Ajmera Realty and Infra India Ltd, said, "The current homebuyers' sentiment is highly positive and we are optimistic about the real estate demand growing in 2023, especially in the residential segment. The rise in interest rates has not been of much deterrence to the demand and we expect this sentiment to stay till the time interest rates don't cross nine per cent. The aspirational value and sense of security that real estate brings along will continue to drive the demand for housing in the coming year irrespective of the minimal economic turbulence. The government is taking proactive measures to boost the real estate sector and we are hopeful that the stamp duty will be reduced to three per cent from the current six per cent. This move will entice fence-sitters to take the plunge and make a purchase. Overall, the real estate segment has regained its popularity and it is only going to increase in the coming year."

Meanwhile, Rahul Talele, Group CEO, Kolte-Patil Developers Limited, said that residential and commercial real estate experienced robust growth in 2022. Housing unit sales reached a record high, aided by resilient economic activity and strong consumer sentiment toward home ownership, fuelled further by the pandemic experience, he said.

Furthermore, the January-November 2022 period has emerged as the best-performing year in the last ten years since 2013, he added.

"The outlook for the coming quarters is strong and we are confident of delivering in line with the shared guidance of 25-30 per cent year-on year growth in pre-sales. The weakening rupee and the promise of the new Indian economy is actively motivating non-resident Indians to invest in their home country considering the geo-political situation and global inflation uncertainties. While smart townships and gated communities took the centre stage when it comes to preferred home segments, large spaces, open areas, diligently designed compact homes and senior living spaces were among the top choices for homebuyers looking to invest in residential assets," he informed.

One of the distinguishing features of today's demand is that even millennials are considering purchasing a home, said Talele. **-Prakash VL**

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# Save water at construction sites

Rohan Patil
c-Rohan.Patil
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The quality of water used during the construction of a building has a direct effect on the strength and longevity of the structure. And while water forms one of the key elements required to build a building, there is no denying that water wastage is a bane that the construction sector is facing. Here are some ways to save water at a construction site.

### Using dry mortar

Dry mortar is a pre-mixed packed material where only water must be added in the appropriate quantity. It eliminates the need of mixing all the materials on site as it is already mixed in the right proportion. "There is maximum usage of water during the preparation of mortar and while curing. One way to reduce this is by using dry mortar. This efficiently reduces overall water requirement," says Prashant Thakur, senior director and head (research), Anarock Group.

### Rainwater harvesting

On a construction site, water collectors or artificial ponds can be installed where the water can accumulate naturally. This can be later used for mixing cement, cleaning equipment, or work site.

### Smart usage

"Construction companies must remain vigilant and for cleaning the site and equipment they can avoid continuous water flow through pipes and instead the same can be done by using buckets of water."

Himanshu Jain, VP (sales, marketing) and CRM of a real estate group shares some key methods using which water can be saved on site:

Adopt alternate methods of curing: In drip curing, water is applied directly at the required spot or location, minimising conveyance losses. Sometimes, membrane curing is also preferred as moist curing generally requires less water because the membrane helps to keep a satisfactory and optimum temperature, preventing unnecessary evaporation and water loss.

Use of fly ash: Concrete mix containing fly ash requires less water and provides better workability at the same water content.

Use of water-reducing admix: Water-reducing admixtures neutralise surface charges and allow for better dispersion resulting in reduced flocculation of cement particles and formation of a greater slump. The use of these admixtures reduces the amount of water required.

**-Source: Times Property**

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# Will rapid roads pass test?

A kilometre of white topped road costs about ₹7.5 crore, whereas a kilometre of black topped road costs around ₹75 lakh to 1 crore

## BBMP has approached Indian Institute of Science experts to determine their quality

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to take the help of experts from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to evaluate the quality of rapid roads. Responding to allegations that motorists were experiencing 'vibrations' while travelling on the roads, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "We have been told by the contractors that although rapid roads are expensive, they are of superior quality and will last longer. However, we need a third party to evaluate the pros and cons. So, we have decided to approach IISc scientists to study the road and give us a report. Based on this, we will take the next steps."

Earlier, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had said that the state government will consider the construction of rapid roads by using pre-cast technology only after examining its quality and rate. The experimental rapid road was laid out in CV Raman Nagar Assembly Constituency.

"White topping will take a lot of time. Traffic has to be diverted and it causes density. Once laid, it will be very difficult to break the white topped roads in case of any problems. Because of this, rapid road technology has been experimented with. Under this technology, the pre-cast slabs are prepared elsewhere and then fixed later. As a pilot project, a 375 m-long rapid road has been laid out," he said. An official said, "We need to run vehicles over 20 tonnes on this road continuously and then analyse it. We have sought a report on the impact on the road due to the movement of heavy vehicles. Details of joints, strength, and other techniques will be assessed".

> **"We need to run vehicles over 20 tonnes on this road continuously and then analyse it. We have sought a report on the impact on the road**
> – BBMP official

The cost or rapid roads will be 30 per cent more than the white topped ones. Currently, it is estimated that a kilometre of black topped road costs anywhere between Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1 crore. A kilometre of white topped road would cost about Rs 7.5 crore. However, Nath defended the new technology. "Currently, we are laying these roads with our technology partner. White topped roads take longer to construct. If road laying takes more than the required time, then it defeats the purpose of laying a road. As this is the first of its kind of experiment in the country, we hope that this model will turn out to be a success," he said.

A senior BBMP engineer explained that the concrete slabs will be constructed at the factory site. Around 200 m of road could be laid out in a day and traffic can be allowed within 24 hours.

# Kasturinagar's mini forest needs saving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

path in the forest," said Sridhar. Kasturinagar Residents Welfare Association has appealed to the forest department to maintain the forest and construct a walking path for the benefit of the residents. "There was a proposal from the forest department for setting up a nursery. We welcome the forest department's plan of having a nursery in the forest. However, they did nothing to implement the proposal," said Kasturinagar Welfare Association secretary N Ramesh, adding that the department has to construct a compound wall around the area.

Bangalore Mirror published a story on March 20, 2020 narrating how miscreants set ablaze dry grass and leaves during the summer season here. The story narrated how miscreants were burning garbage causing health problems for the residents of the area back then. Kasturinagar Welfare Association president Venugopal Rai demanded the authorities concerned take measures not to use the forest area for commercial purposes. "It is the only lung space in and around Kasturinagar. It is very important to preserve and use it for a better purpose," said Rai.

According to a document available with Bangalore Mirror, N Narasimha Murthy, the president of Kasturinagar Welfare Association at the time wrote a letter to the BBMP chief engineer (lakes) on May 2, 2017 appealing for the development of Channasandra Lake. Meanwhile, CV Raman Nagar assembly constituency MLA S Raghu said the state forest department has to develop or convert it into a tree park for the benefit of people residing in Kasturinagar and surrounding areas. "I want the state forest department to construct a walking path and allow residents to use it for their morning and evening walks," the MLA said.

# How objections are treated

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

objections from the public. In response to the notice, as many as 50 objections were filed within a short period of ten days. Interestingly, BBMP had put out a public notice on October 15, 2022, regarding the construction of a grade separator across four traffic junctions in the city. The notice invited tenders for conducting a feasibility study and preparation of a detailed project report for the construction of the grade separator on the same stretch (between Cauvery Theatre Junction and Mekhri circle).

Activists and environmentalists said since the stretch is part of a larger project involving the construction of flyovers for which a feasibility study is underway, no action should be taken regarding the proposed road widening project. "Till the feasibility study is completed, the widening of this stretch should not be considered. This stretch is part of the larger plan to construct a set of flyovers in the area. Until that study is completed and a decision is taken, the trees should not be touched," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee, Bangalore Environment Trust. Those who filed the objections said the process of filing objections is a futile exercise in absence of transparency.

"There has been no reply to the objection I filed in response to the public notice by BBMP on April 18. While many objections were sent, there is no clarity on how these objections are dealt with. There should be explanations for every objection that the tree officer receives, instead of summarising it in a small paragraph. There is a total lack of transparency in the process," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizen for Citizen.

Experts said those who had filed the objections must oppose the way the tree officer or TEC has been dealing with public objections so far. The procedures laid down by the Karnataka High Court regarding the felling of trees has a provision for recording response for each objection raised by the public. While the officials or TEC, as per the procedure, are not required to reply to the people who filed the objection, environment activists said, individual response should be sent to ensure transparency.

According to environmentalists and tree activists, the 54 trees marked to be felled are heritage trees and TEC's order to remove them only shows that there is no stopping this environmental apathy.

"The earlier proposal was to cut 172 trees for the project. However, they resorted to removing 58 trees due to land acquisition issues. If the earlier solution to solve the traffic woes on the stretch was to remove 172 trees, how is the civic body planning to solve it by cutting only 54 trees now? They are fooling people on a loop.

This is not a holistic approach and will never solve the issue they are claiming to solve by mercilessly removing the city's green cover," said Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha Foundation.

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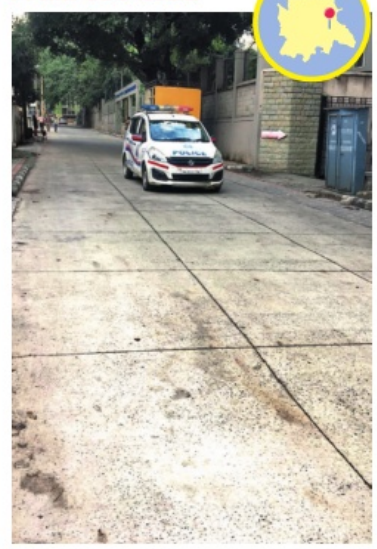
## Trashed

**Bannerghatta Road**

Metro barricades have turned into a garbage dumping site on Bannerghatta Road

## Traffic violation

**Primrose Road**



One-way rule on Primrose Road near MG Road is being violated.

## Bad road

**Whitefield**

Sahasra Garden Road in Whitefield is in a very poor condition.

# ಹುಟ್ಟು ಹಬ್ಬದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

17ನೇ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್

ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಶಾಸಕರಾಗಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿ, ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ವಿಪಕ್ಷ ನಾಯಕರಾಗಿ, ಸಚಿವರಾಗಿ, ಸ್ಪೀಕರ್‌ರಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ
ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದಕ್ಷವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದ ಹಿರಿಮೆ
**ಶ್ರೀ ಜಗದೀಶ ಶೆಟ್ಟರ** ರವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲುತ್ತದೆ.
ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಇರಲಿ, ಇಲ್ಲದಿರಲಿ ಸಮಚಿತ್ತದಿಂದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿರಂತರ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಶ್ರೇಯಸ್ಸು
ಇವರದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ. 'ಬಿಯಾಂಡ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು'ದಡಿ ಔದ್ಯೋಗಿಕ ವಲಯದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ
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ಸದಾ ಹಸನ್ಮುಖಿ, ಮಿತಭಾಷಿ, ಸರಳ ಸಜ್ಜನಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವದ ನಮ್ಮ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ನೇತಾರ

# ಶ್ರೀ ಜಗದೀಶ ಶೆಟ್ಟರ

ಅವರಿಗೆ

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

### A NEW HIGH

I clicked this picture of a person paragliding at Nandi Hills

The picture was clicked by reader **Jugie Singh**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

# Drive at your own risk on Kasavanahalli Main Road

## Stretch is filled with potholes and craters; during the rains, it becomes extremely slippery too, say residents

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Commuters travelling on Kasavanahalli Road say that the entire stretch is filled with potholes, making every journey a risky and cumbersome one.

The commuters say that the condition of the road has been broken for a very long time and no steps have been taken by the authorities to fix them. Ajit Rao, a commuter, said, "I have lost hope that this road can ever be smooth. All of us have been facing this problem for a very long time now and we want something to be done soon before any kind of accident takes place."

> **"The vehicles suffer a lot of damage. In the last two months, I have taken my vehicle to the mechanic almost four to five times** – Shijin K, a commuter

The commuters said that apart from hindering their commute, these potholes also cause significant damage to their vehicles as well.

Shijin K, another commuter, said it was true commuting on this road is extremely difficult. "To add to that, there is also the chance of our vehicles getting affected. The vehicles suffer a lot of damage. In the last two months, I have taken my vehicle to the mechanic almost four to five times. These problems faced by the commuters should be taken into consideration by the authorities."

Some of the commuters also pointed out how difficult it was to move past in the last few days because of the incessant rains. Hemanth Kumar, another commuter, said that the entire road becomes slippery, and the potholes make it worse. There is always the risk of skidding looming on everyone who is using this road.

**During the rains, Kasavanahalli Main Road becomes nearly impossible to traverse**

The commuters say that they have raised a number of complaints, but the officials say that it falls under the panchayat, and is not in their jurisdiction.

Sharath Raj, another commuter, said, "The BBMP officials say that it falls under the Shantipura panchayat hence they cannot do anything in this matter. I do not understand why they cannot communicate and come up with a solution that will help everyone.

A BBMP official, said they would look into the matter.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Consecrated in 1866, St Andrew's Church is a Presbyterian church, located on Cubbon Road. Initially knows as St Andrews's Kirk, it was a Church of Scotland church till 1959 when it became part of the Karnataka Central Diocese of the Church of South India. The church is named after Saint Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. Stained glass covers all the windows and the large gable. The pulpit is made of teak wood, and is richly carved, in sync with the church architecture. The church compound has more than 31 species of trees. These offer shelter for migratory birds, which perch on the tree canopy. The churchyard is house to hundreds of mynas, squirrels, barbets, kites and other birds and animals.

## GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

**9591233247**

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

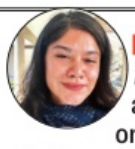
## TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

### Which are your favourite winter snacks and beverages in Bengaluru and why?

**Pragati Bharati, BM Reader**
Usually, hot steaming poha with momos and various chaats available are my favourite winter snacks. Sometimes pakoda and samosa and tea during rainy and cold weather.

**Gauri G, BM Reader**
Love having hot piping dosas and chutney around the city at the famous spots or heading over to Koramangala for the Continental breakfast options along with a big, hot coffee.



**Pooja J, BM Reader**
Any place selling good coffee or tea along with some Maggi or pakoda or samosa are my favourite snacks. Dahi papdi chaats are really good for a quick hunger fix.

**Dhwani Jaisingh, BM Reader**
Drinking hot chocolate from the famous hot chocolate joints around the city with my favourite Netflix show is something I look forward to. Palmiers biscuits are amazing crispy snacks which I enjoy.

**Sejal D'Souza, BM Reader**
The Christmas rum cake, champagne and thin crust pizzas are my most favourite. Favourite snacks are mostly chicken nachos or fish fingers.

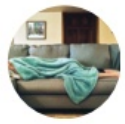
**Sudha S Kishore, BM Reader**
With the onset of winter, I usually crave for spicy food like crispy samosas, masala vadas or hot chilli bajjis along with a hot cup of spiced tea.

### SPEAK TO US

Which has been your favourite World Cup moment so far?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

**HEALTH TIP:** If you don't get enough natural sunlight during the winter, it can cause vitamin D deficiency



Even if you exercise, long bouts of sedentary time can hurt your heart health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# SUPER SUPPLEMENT

## Maintain your skin's structure for as long as possible with Hyaluronic acid

Most people wish to appear and feel younger than they actually are. Along with concerns about wrinkles and other outward symptoms of ageing, the idea of growing old causes its own share of anxiety.

According to a recent Forbes Health Survey, about 50 per cent of Americans are terrified of getting older, largely due to how it will affect their health. Similar circumstances can be found in India, where many people express fear about getting older. They would wish to stop the ageing process if they could.

Because some people wonder if ageing can genuinely be reversed if it is a natural process, reversing ageing and its numerous symptoms is a hotly debated topic. The solution is straightforward: while the indications of ageing cannot be totally stopped or reversed, they can be slowed down and postponed.

A balanced diet, regular exercise, and an active lifestyle can help you achieve this. However, there are certain methods you may take to counteract these effects if you've already started to see the signs of ageing such as wrinkles, skin thinning, loss of skin elasticity, fragility, and diminished fatty tissues beneath the skin's layers. Utilising supplements like hyaluronic acid is one of these steps.

### Counter signs of ageing

The body has a slick, sticky fluid called hyaluronic acid (HA). It is a naturally occurring acid that functions as a lubricant or cushion in the body's joints and other tissues. Although hyaluronic acid is primarily a moisturiser that keeps the skin hydrated and strong, ageing can cause HA levels to drop. The suppleness and richness that the skin needs to stay younger and healthier as you age can be provided by HA.

Hyaluronic acid administration depends on the type of therapy being used. Profhilo, a bio-remodeling injectable therapy that helps to provide the proper amounts of stabilised HA to reconstruct skin tissues, is one of the most advanced HA treatments currently accessible. A further advantage of HA's texture is that it is evenly dispersed in the crucial areas that need filling, such as the hands, chin, neck, and under the eyes. Lack of moisture is one of the reasons why the skin starts to age.

Skin thinning is unavoidable without the proper quantity of moisture. Because the Profhilo treatment goes beyond the typical dermal filler or skin revitaliser, it comes with a lot of expert advice. It also encourages comfort because fewer treatment sessions and injection sites are required because the proper concentrations of HA are delivered to the parts of the body where they are required.

Other age-related worries that many individuals have are justified, such as definition loss, fine wrinkles, and drooping skin. The face, arms, neck, and abdomen are the main areas to take into account. The two main causes of these disorders are loss of collagen and thinning of the epidermis.

**"Hyaluronic acid (HA) is a naturally ocurring acid that functions as a lubricant or cushion in the body's joints and tissues. Ageing can cause HA levels to drop"**

By increasing collagen production and creating the moisture that your skin's epidermis needs to be supple and full, HA can firm up those body flashpoints.

The dermatology equivalent of the proverbial "holy grail" is hyaluronic acid. The scientific community is still raving about the benefits and wonders it has discovered, particularly in relation to its anti-aging capabilities. Hyaluronic acid is exactly what you need if you want to keep the proper structure of your skin for as long as possible or if you want to appear hydrated and plump.

*—Dr M Shraddha, senior consultant dermatologist, Helios Skin and Hair Clinic (IANSlife)*

## MIRRORLIGHTS

### Individuality matters, even in relationships

During the initial stage of the relationship, you work hard on yourself as you feel good and want to impress your partner as well. However, before you know it, you are digging around in the relationship looking for some remnant of the person you were earlier.

It's easy to lose yourself when you're with someone, especially for a long duration, but completely losing your sense of self can have negative impacts on your partnership in the long run.

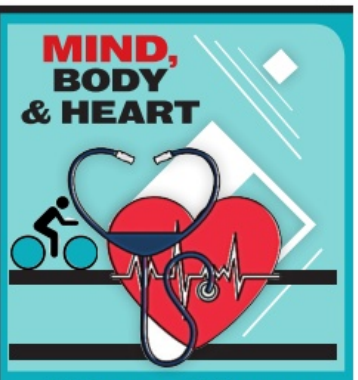
**Maintain Your Friendships:** If you've been ignoring your friends to hang out with your partner and their friends, stop immediately. "Maintaining friendships outside of the relationship helps prevent couples from completely relying on each other for every aspect of their lives," says Mumbai-based life coach Amishi Gambhir.

**Do Things By Yourself:** Just because the two of you are in a relationship does not mean you need to spend every waking minute together.
"While we get that it's fun to share experiences with your partner, aim to have some solo ones too," advises Amishi.

**Don't Overshare:** If you think you need to tell your partner everything that happens through the day and every fleeting thought that you have, think again. "Oversharing things with your significant other puts too much pressure on them and can frustrate you as well," Sanmati points out. "Filter out certain things such as

that innocent crush you have on your gym trainer or the contents of your smoothie bowl."

**Keep Money Private Too:** If you and your partner are married, it's likely that you share a joint account.
While that does indicate commitment, you might want to consider maintaining a private one too. Amishi says that having a private account is a great way of staying independent and not having to consult your partner every time you want to make a big purchase. "Ensure, however, that this is not a secret account, and that your partner is aware of it to avoid any fights later on," she adds. —IANS




## All problems solved

*Dear Coleen*

**I'm facing a real dilemma this Christmas. I broke up with a long-term boyfriend a few months ago and my mum has invited him over to our house over the holidays with his parents to celebrate her and my dad's 40th wedding anniversary.**
**My parents have been friends with my ex's parents since we started school at five years old, so I understand why she's invited them, but not why my ex has to come along too.**
**I'll be there with my new boyfriend and I'm already feeling awkward about it. My ex and I didn't separate on the best terms, and it was me who pushed to end the relationship, so he's quite bitter about what happened.**
**I have tried talking to my mum about it, but she sees the good in everyone and doesn't understand why we can't all get along. The truth is, I didn't tell her everything about our relationship and he was a nightmare towards the end, and said some horrible things to me.**

**COLEEN SAYS**
To be honest, I think if anyone's going to feel intimidated and awkward, it's likely to be your ex. I'm not sure why he'd want to be there with you and your new boyfriend.
I think that your mum should at least warn his mum of that and give him an "out" if he wants to bail.
As you say, your mum doesn't know the full story around the break-up, so maybe you should tell her and explain why you don't really want to be in the same room as him, given how things were left at the end.
However, if he does show up, say hello and move on – I'm sure there will be plenty of people to mingle with and if he does want to talk about how your relationship ended, remind him your parents' party isn't the time or place to have that chat.

**—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror**

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

I Sapna Bindal W/O, Sowmick Ghosh R/o S3, Mangala Galaxy, #34, Kanakanagar, 7th Cross, R.t.nagar Post, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Sapna Ghosh

**I,** Danamma Manjunath Kenchannavar w/o Manjunath B Kenchannavar. Aadhar Card No. 3724 3421 5247 R/a #46, Yashas, 4th cross, 1st block, nagarabhavi 2nd stage, Bangalore-72 declare that Danamma & Danamma S Shiraguru one & the same person henceforth, changed my name as Danamma Manjunath Kenchannavar vide affidavit 13.12.2022 before notary Devaraja E. B'lore

**I,** Mohammad Rahaman Khan S/o Mohammad Naseer Khan R/o #302 ,4th Floor, Sahara Palace 3rd Block ,Koramangala B'lore-560034 have changed my name to Rehaman Khan.

**I,** Humara Anjum W/o Syed Waseem A S # 319, 1st Main 5th Cross Dargha Mohalla Vijinapura Doorvaninagar B'lore-560016, Have Changed my name to Humera Anjum For All Purposes

**I,** SRIKANTAIAH G N S/o. GANAKAL NANJUNDAIAH, D.O.B: 24.11.1957, R/o at No. 1203, 8th Cross 1st Stage 2nd Phase Chandra Layout Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, have changed my name to SREEKANTAIAH G N, vide affidavit dated: 14.12.2022 before notary CHANDRAKALA, Bengaluru.

**I,** SRIJAN SHETTY S/o.UPPALA RAJARAMA SHETTY, D.O.B: 10.03.1994, R/o at No. B-506,RNS Shanti Nivas,Behind RNS Motors, Tumkur Rd, Yeshwanthpur, B'lore-560022, have changed my name to SRIJAN R SHETTY, vide affidavit dated:09.12.2022 before notary CHANDRAKALA, B'lore

**I,** Ajay Kumar Garg R/o E 703, Purva Fountain Square Apartments, Marathahalli, Bangalore have changed my minor son's name from Vinayak to Vinayak Garg

**I,** Sandip Somanath Suryawanshi R/o Flat No. A108, Master Classic Residency 4th Cross 2nd Main Road, Surabhi Layout, Shivanahalli, Jakkur Main Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sanika Suryawanshi to Sanika Sandip Suryawanshi

**I** Mohammed Shabeer Shadiq S/O, Sadiq Basha Abdul Gaffar R/o No. 26, V Khudush Saheb Street, Koila Layout, Lingarajapuram, St Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru have changed my name to Mohammed Shabeer Sadiq

**I** JOYCE PHILIP holder of Passport No. E4681234 do hereby change my name to JOICE PHILIP as per my Aadhar No. 221256428986 for all purpose. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other Public Documents

**I,** Jayanth Kumar Devadass R/o 18 Sampurna Nilayam Kalanagar 10th Cross Kammagondanahalli Jalahalli West Bangalore 560015 have changed my minor daughter's name from Samhitha Jane Jayanthkumar Kumarigunta to Samhitha Jane Jayanth

**I,** Kavitha w/o Umesh Kumar Hirekolale Maralusiddegowda R/o Hirekolate chickmangalur District-577101 Karnataka, have changed my name to Kavitha Donigal Shanthappa for all purposes.

**I,** NAGARAJA K S/o. KRISHNAPPA N, D.O.B: 20.02.1989, Residing at No. 391 Singanayakanahalli Bengaluru- 560064, have changed my name to NAGARAJU K, vide affidavit dated: 14.12.2022 before notary CHANDRAKALA, Bengaluru.


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# Illegal hospitality in sensitive BRT tiger reserve

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As many as nine resorts, home stays and hotels are operating illegally around the Biligiri Ranga Temple (BRT) tiger reserve located in the Chamarajanagar district, says a report by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). According to the report, these establishments have been functioning in the eco-sensitive zone of the BRT tiger reserve.

The illegal operations around the reserve were flagged by Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife conservationist in the area, by raising a complaint to NTCA. An NTCA team led by Harini Venugopal, assistant inspector general of forests, conducted a detailed inquiry in the reserve and prepared the said report.

The officials from NTCA have now directed the Karnataka Forest Department to take action against these illegal establishments.

"The home stays/resorts which are operational in commercial ways without getting prior approval from the competent authorities are a clear-cut violation," said the report.

**NTCA officials have directed the Karnataka Forest Department to take action against illegal establishments**

The report further recommended that the field director, BRT tiger reserve in the capacity of member secretary of the monitoring committee for BRT sanctuary eco-sensitive zone shall convene the meeting and review the matter case-wise about violations.

"Accordingly, legal action shall be taken up case-wise by the authorities from the department of revenue, forest, environment, tourism, urban development and state pollution control board of Karnataka as per law," it added. According to Kulkarni, as human-wildlife conflict mitigation has become a big challenge for the state government, they should take the recommendations of NTCA seriously and take immediate action against the violations.

"There should be immediate action taken to safeguard the BRT tiger reserve which is also an important elephant habitat," he said.

"Action against such illegal tourism facilities would reduce the tourism pressure on the tiger reserve to a greater extent as it is a well-known fact that due to the presence of tourism facilities at BR Hills, the tourism inflow has increased in the recent past," he added.

NTCA has also observed that the area where these constructions have come up is an important elephant habitat and is part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. So, the monitoring committee must review the matter keeping the protection of elephants in mind.

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# Full-bloom NY party at Mysore Palace

**Maagi festival that was stopped for last two years due to covid is back; Cultural events, flower exhibition and more planned as part of year-ender fete**

Mysore Palace, which mainly attracts thousands of tourists during Dasara, is now gearing up to welcome them again for year-end festivities. This year, a host of programmes have been planned for year-end including flower show, photography expo and dolls exhibition.

The palace administration has decided to organise a flower exhibition in the city from December 24 to January 2. The exhibition will be open between 10 am to 9 pm.

While there is an entrance fee to visit the palace, the flower exhibition will have free entry. A host of other programmes including lighting, police bands and busting of soundless crackers along with cultural programmes are planned as well.

There is a plan to light up the palace between 7 pm to 9 pm during the cultural programmes. This time it has been planned to exhibit around 25,000 flowering plants. A Kashi temple is to be created with a record 4 lakh plants.

"We have lined up a host of events. To attract kids, we are planning to model pictures of Ranganathittu, Namibia cheetahs, and Vande Bharat Express that will be decorated using flowers," said palace board deputy director TS Subramanya.

Meanwhile, the district administration has requested a grant of Rs 50 lakh from the state government to organise Maagi festival.

According to Dr KV Rajendra, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC), the Maagi festival which used to be organised in December was stopped for the last two years due to the outbreak of covid. As the tourist inflow has increased, the Mysuru district administration is planning for the festival.

Flower show will be organised from December 24 to January 2

**"We have lined up a host of events. We are planning to have models of cheetahs, Ranganathittu, Vande Bharat Express that will be decorated with flowers**

–TS Subramanya, Palace Board

"We have written to the tourism department seeking a financial grant for the organisation of the fest. We have also brought this to the notice of the district in charge minister ST Somashekar as well. If we receive grants in time, then we will be able to organise this festival this year," he said.

Mysuru attracts a huge number of tourists during Dasara. However, post-Dasara, there seems to be a lull.

Now, the hospitality industry of Mysuru is urging the government to take up activities so that it can attract tourists across the year.

Earlier, the Federation of Organisations and Associations of Mysuru (FOAM) had urged the district administration to organise tourist fests in different parts of Mysuru and take up cultural programmes across the year so that there is a year-long steady flow of tourists. This will give a boost to economic activities in the city.

–Prakash VL

**PM inaugurates Pramukh Swamy Maharaj Nagar in Ahmedadad:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj at the inauguration of the month-long centenary celebrations of Pramukh Swami Maharaj

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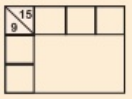
## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

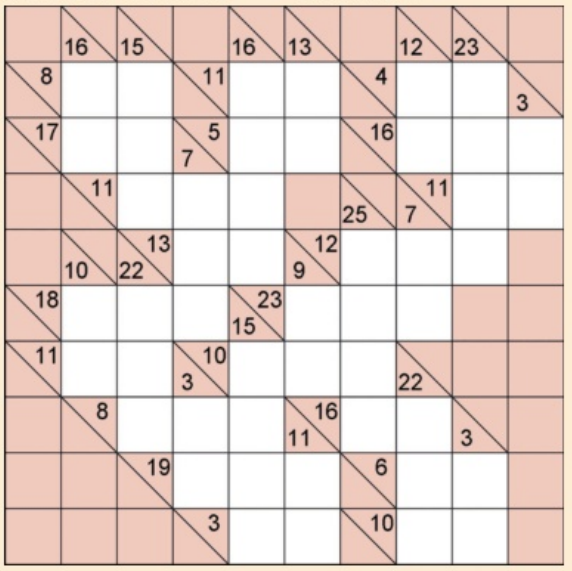
5% = a = 10
a = 10%b
b= ?

## Kakuro

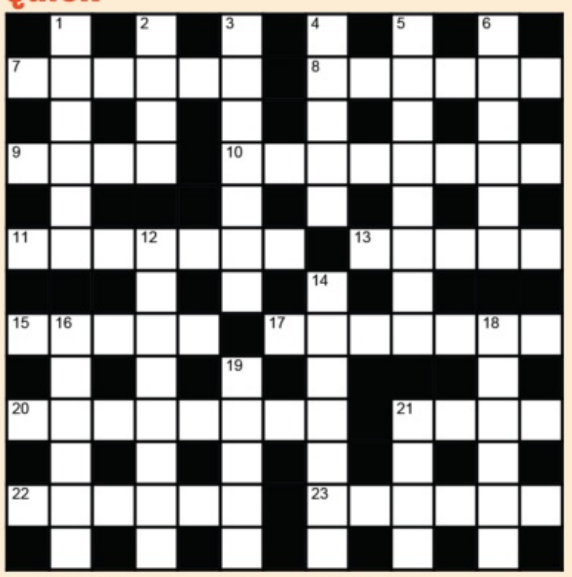
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.




Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.




## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Intense dislike or aversion (6)
8 Ran away to get married? (6)
9 Ill at ease (4)
10 Winter top wear (8)
11 Exercise in vanity (3,4)
13 Soil, make unclear or impure (5)
15 Eskimo home (5)
17 Mum and dad? (7)
20 Large church (8)
21 Infrequent (4)
22 Most judicious (6)
23 Fix or straighten (6)

**DOWN**

1 Small canine (6)
2 Make a noise like an ass (4)
3 Very stupid (7)
4 Precious stone (5)
5 End (8)
6 Put back, as in court? (6)
12 A double-crosser or a cheat? (3-5)
14 Restaurant at the Leela Place (7)
16 Free of charge (6)
18 Saintly lady of Kolkata, Mother ___ (6)
19 A little song (5)
21 Indian monarch or king (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: N EQUALS T**

NA GMBMQE H SITHN JHL MC NUT ITHPMTCN RHE ML RUMKU H BMNNBT JHL KHL UMJCTBQ HNNHML SITHNLTCC.

## Linemaro

See these arms? Just dreaming about wrapping themselves around you

## Mindchow

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea

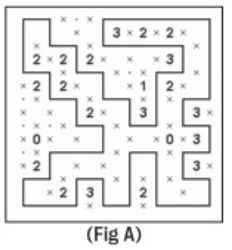
## Joke of the day

I am not late boss, I just took my coffee break before coming in

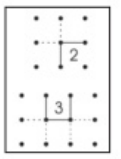
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

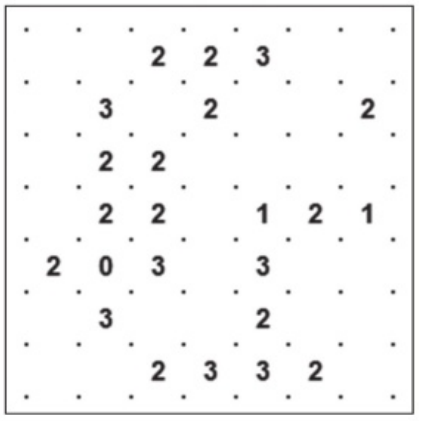


(Fig B) Not Allowed

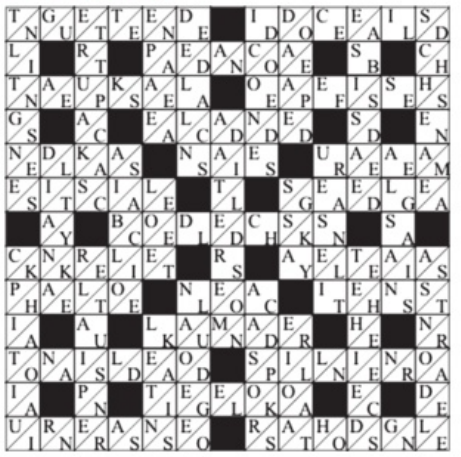
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



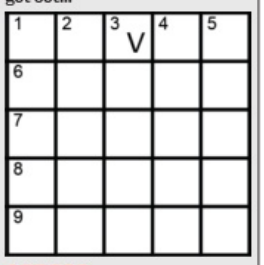
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

1 Dover; 6 In Zee (1-4); 7 Large; 8 Tune I; 9 Blade

**DOWN**

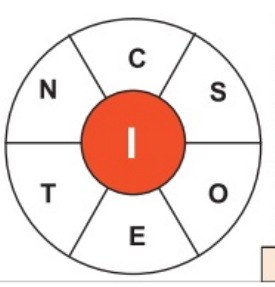
1 Bu err; 2 A Zone; 3 Gl vil; 4 Eaten; 5 L deed

## Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| ? | 4 | 3 | 7 |

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**18** Average; **20** Good; **22** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | | | 4 | | 5 | | |
| 9 | | 7 | | | | | | |
| | | | 5 | 7 | | | 8 | |
| | 1 | | | | 9 | | | 4 |
| | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | | |
| 2 | | | 4 | | | | 5 | |
| | 6 | | | 1 | 7 | | | |
| | | | | | | 6 | | 5 |
| | | 8 | | 3 | | | 1 | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 3
2 4 5 8

**Medium** = 7
2 6 6 9

**Hard** = 24
2 2 3 2

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

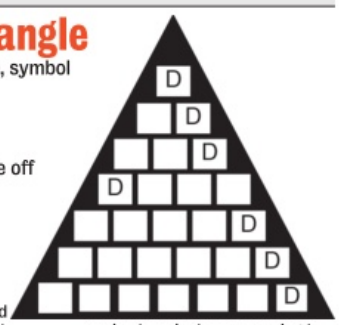
**Differences:** 1. Mouth is different. 2. Club is longer. 3. Visor is different. 4. Hill is different. 5. Hair is longer. 6. Cloud is reversed.

## Riddler

Which Shakespearean character faced CASUAL JURIES?

## Alpha triangle

1 Hydrogen isotope, symbol
2 Anno Domini
3 Small amount
4 Palm fruit
5 Levied
6 Prepared for take off
7 Obsessed



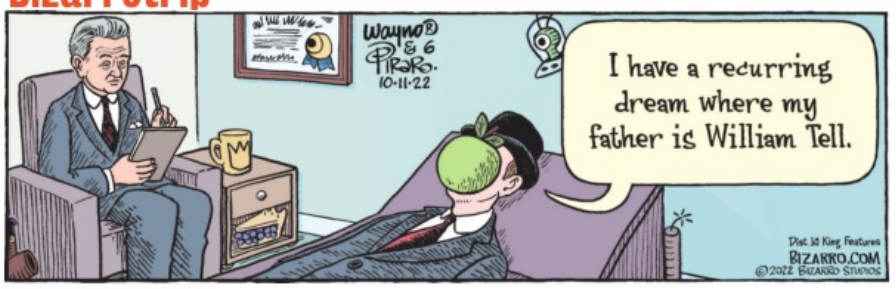

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson

## Bizarrotrip

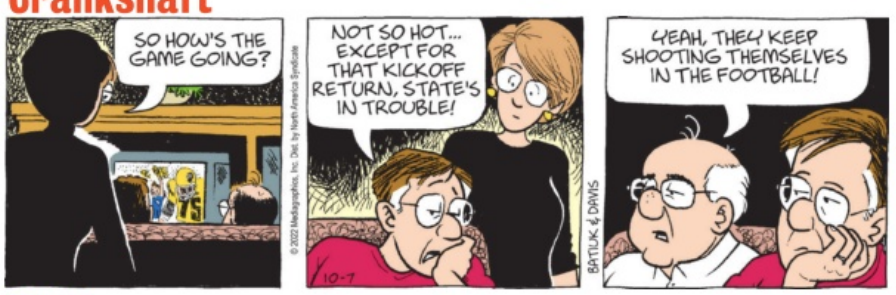

Wayno & Piraro 10-11-22
I have a recurring dream where my father is William Tell.
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2022 BIZARRO STUDIOS

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

WHY ASK FOR EXACTLY $10.80?
HEY HEART, SOMEONE SLIPPED THIS UNDER OUR DOOR. I THINK IT'S FOR YOU.
BABIES 'R US
MICROPHONE (TOY)
SUBTOTAL $9.99
TAX .81
TOTAL $10.80
SOMEONE ELSE WANTS ME TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY...

## Crankshaft


SO HOW'S THE GAME GOING?
NOT SO HOT... EXCEPT FOR THAT KICKOFF RETURN, STATE'S IN TROUBLE!
YEAH, THEY KEEP SHOOTING THEMSELVES IN THE FOOTBALL!

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel some dullness which can reflect into your way of working. With the help of elders, you are likely to recover your motivation. You are likely to pay extra attention to the health of your children. You will be in a winning position against your opponents. Investors should be careful while taking difficult decisions. Stomach issues can bother you.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be happy at work. You are likely to take some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You may plan for a short trip. Your subordinates are likely to be cooperative. You may expect some good news in terms of your sibling's success. You are likely to be in winning positions in legal matters. Students may be more focused.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today your communication skills may help you in terms of your professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you speed up your projects. Lovebirds may likely exchange their views with each other, which may build a solid foundation for their relationship.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy levels are likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are likely to meet some old friends or be busy with social get-togethers. You may be more excited today. New innovations may be there in terms of business. You are likely to have some unexpected material gains. Children may bring good news in terms of their academics. Lovebirds may enjoy quality moments.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. Small investments may convert to big profits. Your working efficiency may be increased now. You are likely to get success after low effort. you may hear good news in legal matters. You may have full control over your opponents and rivals.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. Minimal effort may give you success. You are likely to have good profits from past investments. You will get rewards for your hard work on the professional and domestic front. Your prestige may be increased now. You may start new innovations in business. Disputes with your spouse may be resolved now.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel better. Situations may be under control. Your network may help you on the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase your domestic harmony and love life. You may bring some artefacts or creative items for your family. You may also plan to watch movies or go out with friends.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may get tired due to overworking. It can make you lazy and careless, so you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning adventure tours, you are advised to postpone the same for a while. Your past investments may convert to dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have backaches or issues related to your nervous system, liver, or skin.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your creativity may be high. You may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some items to decorate your home or office, which may increase your social status. There is likely to be harmony with your spouse. It will improve harmony in the family. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may settle down. You may hear good news in legal matters.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you will be glad. You will be able to strike a balance between your earning and expenditure, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit your elders or a spiritual place.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dull due to sleeplessness. You may be scattered towards your goals. This may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit a spiritual place. In the late evening, you may be helped by your elders. You may find out your mistakes and can make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

## KIDZONE

Sinchana S, 8 Years, Vidyaniketan Public School

Afreen Sheriff, 9 Years, Tunbridge High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
5/100 * a = 5/100 * (10/100 * b) = 10
Divide each side by 5/100 to get:
a = 10/100 * b = 10 * 100/5
a = b/10 = 200
b = 200 × 10 = 2000

**RIDDLER** Julius Caesar

**QUOTE UNCODE**
To vilify a great man is the readiest way in which a little man can himself attain greatness.

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | L | E | D |
| U | N | I | T | E |
| R | E | G | A | L |
| E | Z | I | N | E |
| R | O | V | E | D |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | N | E | A | S | E | S | T | O | D | G | E | | | |
| A | N | | I | G | L | O | O | | E | | D | | | |
| T | A | I | L | E | D | P | I | N | E | R | O | | | |
| A | | A | L | U | N | A | R | H | | R | | | | |
| H | A | L | E | | N | O | C | | T | E | N | T | | |
| K | N | E | L | T | | R | Y | E | T | I | S | | | |
| A | | B | E | D | E | C | K | S | | A | | | | |
| S | I | S | A | L | | S | E | D | G | E | | | | |
| E | L | K | S | | S | I | S | | R | E | A | M | | |
| G | | C | E | L | A | N | D | | D | | E | | | |
| N | A | U | S | E | A | | O | A | F | I | S | H | | |
| I | R | | P | E | A | C | E | | B | | C | | | |
| H | A | T | R | E | D | | E | L | O | P | E | D | | |
| | B | | I | | J | | D | E | A | L | S | | | |
| L | | B | | I | | J | | U | | S | | | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | | R | | Y | | R | | A | | A | | | | |
| W | I | S | E | S | T | | A | D | J | U | S | T | | |
| | T | | M | | T | | V | | A | | E | | | |
| B | A | S | I | L | I | C | A | | R | A | R | E | | |
| | R | | T | | D | | M | | | | E | | | |
| I | G | L | O | O | | P | A | R | E | N | T | S | | |
| | E | | W | | C | | J | | D | | | | | |
| E | G | O | T | R | I | P | | M | U | D | D | Y | | |
| | | O | | T | | L | | L | | N | | | | |
| E | D | G | Y | | O | V | E | R | C | O | A | T | | |
| | P | A | | I | | W | | N | | M | | | | |
| H | A | T | R | E | D | | E | L | O | P | E | D | | |
| L | | B | | I | | J | | C | | R | | | | |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | U | T | T | E | D | | I | D | E | A | L | S | | |
| I | R | | P | E | A | C | E | | B | | C | | | |
| N | A | U | S | E | A | | O | A | F | I | S | H | | |
| G | | C | E | L | A | N | D | | D | | E | | | |
| E | L | K | S | | S | I | S | | R | E | A | M | | |
| S | I | S | A | L | | S | E | D | G | E | | | | |
| A | | B | E | D | E | C | K | S | | A | | | | |
| K | N | E | L | T | | R | Y | E | T | I | S | | | |
| H | A | L | E | | N | O | C | | T | E | N | T | | |
| A | | A | L | U | N | A | R | H | | R | | | | |
| T | A | I | L | E | D | P | I | N | E | R | O | | | |
| A | N | | I | G | L | O | O | | E | | D | | | |
| U | N | E | A | S | E | S | T | O | D | G | E | | | |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | L | E | D |
| U | N | I | T | E |
| R | E | G | A | L |
| E | Z | I | N | E |
| R | O | V | E | D |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
To vilify a great man is the readiest way in which a little man can himself attain greatness.

**RIDDLER** Julius Caesar

**SOLVE IN 1M**
5/100 * a = 5/100 * (10/100 * b) = 10
Divide each side by 5/100 to get:
a = 10/100 * b = 10 * 100/5
a = b/10 = 200
b = 200 × 10 = 2000

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
4: all lines and columns total 18.

**BULL'S EYE**
cite, coin, cosine, icon, incest, insect, inset, into, nice, nicest, noise, notice, scion, SECTION, since, sine, site, sonic, stein, stoic, tine, tonic

**MENSA PUZZLE**

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
2 + 4 + 5 − 8 = 3
Medium
9 − 6 + 6 − 2 = 7
Hard
2 + 2 × 3 × 2 = 24

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

Volume No 15, Issue No 30 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

# Summoned

## ED to quiz Rakul Preet Singh again in connection with Tollywood drug case

Rakul Preet Singh has been once again summoned by the Enforcement Directorate, who is probing an alleged money laundering matter connected to Tollywood drug case, state reports coming out of Hyderabad and Telugu news sources. The actress was previously questioned by the investigating agency on September 3, 2021. The ED has been probing this drug trafficking and consumption case since the past four years and several Telugu actors have been questioned in the matter.

This drugs case reportedly hit headlines in July 2017, when customs officials seized drugs worth Rs 30 lakh from musician Calvin Mascarenhas and two others. Tollywood celebrities Ravi Teja, Charmee Kaur, Navdeep, Mumaith Khan, Tanish, Nandu, Tarun and Baahubali fame Rana Daggubati were previously summoned by the ED.

Speaking about the case, an ED official had previously told TOI, "Around 12 cases were booked by Telangana Excise and Prohibition department and 11 charge sheets were filled. Mostly drug traffickers around eight persons were charge sheeted in the cases then. Most of them are lower-level drug traffickers. We have called excise officials as witnesses. Likewise, till we get evidence Tollywood celebrities will be considered as witnesses. Their names have figured in the investigation."

On the work front, Rakul Preet Singh has 'Chhatriwali' and 'Meri Patni Ka Remake' in the pipeline. **—ETimes**

## His word is hers

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif, who got married in December last year recently celebrated their first anniversary together.

In an interview to Good Times, Vicky, while talking about wifey mentioned that she has started picking up a little bit of Punjabi and can speak bits and pieces of it. When quizzed about his favourite Punjabi word, Vicky mentioned that it was 'Haanji'. Moving on, the Uri actor further added that even as a kid, he was taught to say Haanji, instead of Haan and that has stuck with him. He added that even while conversing with Katrina, he uses the word Haanji a lot.

# Vidya on pay parity

Many female actors like Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sonam Kapoor have earlier opened up on the pay parity in Bollywood, expressing displeasure that the female leads are paid much less, even if their role has the same screen time as the main lead. Now actor Vidya Balan, known for her author backed roles has spoken about it, saying that she is happy with what she is getting.

In a roundtable discussion by News18, the Kahaani actor spoke about the issue at length. The 43-year-old said that she really does not have much idea about pay parity since she hardly works with 'big heroes'. Moving on, the No One Killed Jessica actor added that vis-à-vis the projects that she is doing, she thwinks she is compensated fairly, though the bigger actors in mainstream movies might demand 10 times of what she is getting. **—ETimes**

| CAR MODEL | YEAR | COLOUR | REGISTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| GLA 200 | 2021 | MOUNTAIN GREY | UNREGISTERED |
| GLA 220D | 2021 | POLAR WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| GLE 300D | 2021 | CAVANSITE BLUE | UNREGISTERED |
| S 350D | 2022 | DIAMOND WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| AMG GLA 35 | 2022 | POLAR WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| C 220D | 2022 | OPALITE WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| C 200 | 2022 | OPALITE WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| AMG GLA 35 | 2022 | COSMOS BLACK | UNREGISTERED |
| S 350 D | 2021 | DIAMOND WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| E 200 EXCLUSIVE | 2022 | POLAR WHITE | UNREGISTERED |
| A 200D | 2017 | SILVER | REGISTERED |
| E 220D | 2019 | CAVANSITE BLUE | REGISTERED |
| E 220D | 2019 | POLAR WHITE | REGISTERED |
| S 350D | 2017 | POLAR WHITE | REGISTERED |

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